31st October 1933]

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister is aware that it is conventional in all hospitals that wherever there is a specialist available the general practitioner should not handle cases which fall within the purview of the specialist?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It may not be possible to enforce such rules."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Then why in the case of this Surgeon this well-established convention has been given up and has been allowed to perform operations on ear, nose and throat cases in which he is admittedly not proficient?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I am not aware of any such hard and fast rule."

Closure of certain subsidized rural dispensaries.

* 189 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have directed certain subsidized rural dispensaries to be closed down; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for ordering that they should be closed?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Nineteen dispensaries were ordered to be closed as they had a daily average attendance of less than 12. The taluk boards concerned were asked to submit proposals in consultation with the District Medical Officers for the opening of new dispensaries in lieu of the 19 dispensaries ordered to be closed.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I ask whether in the case of the taluk board of Coondapoor in South Kanara the Government have ordered the rural dispensaries to be closed down, although the number of patients visiting that dispensary has usually exceeded the number of 12?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The hon. Member has not particularly referred to any dispensary. I am not quite sure whether that case is included in the number ordered to be closed."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know whether the Government have enquired into the reasons why there has been such poor attendance in these dispensaries before they ordered their closure?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The Surgeon-General has reported like that and Government cannot make separate enquiries."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Have the Government satisfied themselves before closing down those dispensaries that there is any other kind of medical relief available in those villages?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Not in those particular villages. In some cases it was found that in the same taluk there are other dispensaries more conveniently situated for affording medical relief."

[31st October 1933

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Is it suggested that lack of attendance at a rural dispensary is a disqualification and a sufficient reason for denying medical relief to that village?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Dispensaries are closed at one place and reopened at other places where they are found to be more useful."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"So, is it necessary for every rural dispensary started by the Government to be attended by some people suffering from some disease?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"No, Sir. The necessity for medical aid is so great in this Presidency that it is desirable to transfer the dispensaries to places more convenient and accessible."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know whether in the case of certain taluk boards, Government have not thought fit to close down the dispensaries though the usual attendance therein was considerably less than 12?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"No, Sir. According to the report of the Surgeon-General these are the nineteen dispensaries where the attendance has fallen below 12."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether in these nineteen cases, the fall of attendance was due to the incapacity of the doctors in charge of them?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have no information."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether, before closing down the dispensaries, the Government examined whether the fall in the attendance was due to more than one cause?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Surgeon-General sometimes visits them himself and in other cases he gets reports from the District Medical Officers as to the work done at the dispensaries during a course of years; then Government come to a conclusion whether a dispensary is to be closed."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask how many of these nineteen dispensaries are allopathic and how many non-allopathic?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have no information."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state why in the case of certain taluk boards this rule has not been enforced?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have already answered that question. All cases reported by the Surgeon-General have been closed."

Rule as to the closure of the outer gates of the General Hospital, Madras.

* 190 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is a rule in the Government General Hospital at Madras that the outer gates should be closed after